

Purpose of Liberty: Galatians 6:1-10

Bear One Another's Burdens: Galatians 6:1-5:

Galatians 6:1-5: Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load. NASU

As Paul has been stressing throughout his letter to the Galatians, believers have freedom and liberty in Christ; a freedom and liberty that those who are not in Christ do not have. Those who are in Christ, have a freedom that those who are not in Christ do not possess. Whereas, in chapter 5, Paul gave the negative side of this freedom (believers are not to use their freedom to indulge the flesh), in the first ten verses of Chapter 6 Paul is going to address the positive aspect of the believer's freedom in Christ. ***Acts 13:38-39; Galatians 5:1, 13***

Paul closed his instructions on walking in the Spirit (chapter 5:35-36), admonishing believers to be careful to walk humbly in and by the Spirit, telling his readers not to be boastful, impudent, insolent, or envious of one another. Paul opens, verse 1 of chapter 6, calls on his fellow believers that rather than looking for *an opportunity for the flesh*, they should be walking in the Spirit looking to strengthen, support and establish fellow believers.

In verse one Paul's use of the phrase "*Brethren*" indicates he is speaking of two believers; both parties are in Christ. One brother has sinned, *anyone is caught in any trespass*. The word "trespass," which can be rendered "fault," is literally "falling to one side;" a lapse or deviation from truth or uprightness. To slip or fall is the common New Testament idea. In this context Paul is speaking of.

Paul is addressing how the spiritually mature believer is to respond to an individual when the individual's sin is known to another believer(s). First, the sin is not be ignored but when a fellow believer does sin, those in the assembly who are mature (*spiritual*) are to address the sin. How? The spiritual believers are to confront the sin in the believer in an effort to *restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness* to their proper place in the Church. "Restore" is as to set a bone or to adjust, to articulate, to mend if needed. ***Matthew 4:21, 6:14; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:4-13***

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When addressing the sin in another's life, the mature believers, those who life conspicuously demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit, need to ensure their efforts are done in humility, "*in a spirit of gentleness.*" As the temptation is to take on a spirit of superiority and arrogance (*so that you too will not be tempted*), which leads to legalism, separation and ultimately division. The very issue at the heart of Paul's letter to the Galatians, which Satan was using to divide the Church. ***2 Corinthians 2:11***

We should note as well, the fact that Paul is instructing believers to work to restore the fallen, the fallen believer has not lost his salvation for their sins. But, if the fallen brother refuses to repent, refuses to respond to the overtures of love and forgiveness from the Lord, as demonstrated by the believers, the fallen believer may not be a believer. Addressing this issue again requires spiritual maturity, as Paul demonstrated in his letters to the Corinthians in dealing with the sin in amongst their gathering. ***Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2; 1 John 2:19***

Believers are called to share in the burdens of one another, the "*burdens*" are a weight, something to be borne, such as a ship's cargo; a child in the womb; a responsibility. This burden of another could be a frailty or weakness in them (some are better equipped for certain responsibilities or situations in life) or a grief, tension, or pressure which confronts them that is overwhelming.

In Acts 15, Paul described the Law as a burden or a yoke, which neither their fathers or they themselves were able to bear. However, fulfilling the Law of Christ is not burdensome for the believer. ***Acts 15:10; 1 John 5:3***

Believers are called to come along side (*paraclete: Holy Spirit*) the one who is weighted down with a burden and thereby demonstrate or show the body of believers, the Church, as the earthly representation of Jesus Christ, His Body on earth. ***Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 10:43-45; John 13:34-35, 14:15-16; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Hebrews 10:23-25***

In verse 3, Paul returns to his warning for the spiritual believers to be on guard against the temptations associated with ministering to others. The idea of being better or superior or beyond any particular sin or difficulty in life. Paul warns, such a one only deceives himself. When a believer sees or recognizes a fellow believer in need, they are to minister to them in love and patience, *Colossians 3:24*: "*knowing from the Lord you will receive the reward*". ***Colossians 3:23-24***

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Paul, in verse 4, summarizes his warnings/instructions for Christians. They are to focus on their lives and not that of others; they are responsible for how they live their own lives and not for others. When it comes to others our focus is to be on how we might serve them that they might be strengthened and grow in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:10, 13:5; Romans 14:12**

Paul also repeats a warning about the false teachers, who were perverting the Gospel, which he has already noted and will mention again. Part of their purpose, in perverting the Gospel, was not to work for the kingdom of Christ but rather to glorify themselves by drawing disciples unto themselves. **Galatians 4:17, 6:13**

Do Good; Don't Stop: Galatians 6:6-10:

Galatians 6:6-8: The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. NASU

In verses six through 8, Paul addresses an issue that might arise from his instructions against the false teachers, many who only went about and peddled their wares for profit. In an overreaction, some might shun all teachers or reject supporting those who come and truly do minister the word of God. Paul, clearly states that if someone ministers to a believer spiritual benefit, they are to minister to him with material benefits, i.e., pay your preacher. **1 Peter 5:2; 1 Corinthians 9:11-14**

In verse 7, given the context, Paul is saying that depending upon how one shares in their material blessings with the one who has been called to make their living by preaching and teaching, will determine how God will respond in spiritual blessing; man will reap the results of his action. **Matthew 12:20; Hebrews 12:12-13**

One is stingy or tight-fisted (parsimonious) in giving to one who has blessed them, is sowing to their flesh; they circumvent the spiritual blessings of Christ in their life. Feeding the flesh only leads to further degeneration of the flesh; feeding oneself spiritually builds oneself spiritually, to become more like Christ. Christians must focus their thoughts on the things of the Lord, not the things of the world. **Romans 2:4-8, 12:2; Titus 3:5-7; Matthew 12:34-35; Philippians 4:8-9**

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Galatians 6:9-10: Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. NASU

The one who sows can expect to reap – in due season and should not grow weary awaiting the harvest. This is as much a spiritual truth as physical truth. Paul expectation of the Galatians is a harvest for his investment into their spiritual lives; he expects them to mature and grow up in the Lord. ***Psalms 27:14; Isaiah 40:29-31; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:1-3***

The Lord loves all men but those who love His Son, Jesus Christ, He loves differently. God is no respecter of persons but He does show preference and directs preference towards believers over non-believers. ***Genesis 12:3; Psalms 115:13; Acts 10:34-35; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13; 1 Timothy 5:8; Hebrews 10:30-31; 2 Peter 3:9***